

## Message Text

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ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W  
-----102479 081228Z /40  
R 080928Z JUL 77  
FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 807

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NODIS

STADIS////////////////////////////////////

E.O. 11652: NA  
TAGS: APER  
SUBJECT: EVALUATION BY CHIEFS OF MISSIONS OF PERSONNEL LEVELS

REF: STATE 154335

1. AMONG MESSAGES WE HAVE BEEN PLEASED TO READ RECENTLY  
REFTELS RANK HIGH, PARTICULARLY SINCE THEY INDICATE SERIOUS  
INTENTION TO REVIEW EMBASSY STAFFING PATTERN FOR FIRST TIME  
TO COVER ALL USG AGENCIES REPRESENTED IN COUNTRY. THEY  
PROVIDE US WITH WELCOME OPPORTUNITY TO MEASURE PERSONNEL NUMBERS  
AGAINST US INTERESTS AND OBJECTIVES IN NETHERLANDS.

2. WITH RESPECT TO FOREIGN SERVICE COMPLEMENT OF EMBASSY  
AND TWO CONSULATES GENERAL IN AMSTERDAM AND ROTTERDAM I  
CONTINUE TO BELIEVE, AS EXPLAINED IN DETAIL IN THE HAGUE 1682,  
THAT THIS STAFF IS FULLY AND EFFECTIVELY CARRYING OUT  
RESPONSIBILITIES TIED DIRECTLY TO OUR OBJECTIVES AND IS JUST  
LARGE ENOUGH TO COVER ESSENTIAL REQUIREMENTS. IT DOES NOT,  
HOWEVER, PROVIDE SUFFICIENT SCOPE TO ENABLE US TO DO THE JOB  
WE WOULD LIKE TO DO CONSONANT WITH OUR OBJECTIVES IN FIELD OF  
LABOR. INDEED, SINCE WE PREPARED PARM, COMMERCIAL SECTION  
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HAS APPARENTLY BEEN REDUCED FROM THREE TO TWO OFFICERS WHICH  
WILL REQUIRE US TO CUT BACK OUR COUNTRY COMMERCIAL PROGRAM  
ACCORDINGLY IF POSITION IS NOT RESTORED.

3. DRUG ENFORCEMENT AGENCY NOW HAS AUTHORIZED COMPLEMENT  
OF FOUR OFFICERS AND AMERICAN SECRETARY, PLUS OCCASIONAL  
AD HOC ASSISTANCE THROUGH TDY ASSIGNMENT (CURRENTLY ONE

CHINESE LANGUAGE OFFICER AND ONE FILE CLERK). GIVEN DUTCH PROMINENCE AS CENTER OF NARCOTICS TRAFFICKING I CONSIDER DEA STAFFING CORRECT. AS SAME TIME EMBASSY OVERSIGHT OF NARCOTICS PROGRAM IS SOMEWHAT MORE LIMITED THAN I WOULD LIKE SINCE OFFICER INVOLVED ALSO HAS OTHER SUBSTANTIAL ASSIGNMENTS IN ECONOMIC SECTION.

4. SO FAR AS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE IS CONCERNED I CAN RECONFIRM COMMENTS IN PARM. IF ANYTHING, GIVEN MARKET OPPORTUNITIES HERE, ADDITIONAL AMERICAN POSITION (WHICH EXISTED SEVERAL YEARS AGO) COULD PROBABLY BE JUSTIFIED.

5. MILITARY COMPLEMENT HERE PRESENTS PROBLEMS. TWO SEPARATE UNITS, DAO AND ODC, HAVE A TOTAL OF SEVEN OFFICERS AND SIX SUPPORTING AMERICAN PERSONNEL. IN CONTINUE TO BELIEVE THERE IS A REAL IMBALANCE JUDGED BY CONTRIBUTION TO US INTERESTS MEASURED BY NUMBER OF PERSONNEL, AND I HAVE BEEN PLEASED TO LEARN THAT DAO HERE, WITH FOUR OFFICERS AND FIVE AMERICAN ASSISTANTS, SHARES THIS VIEW.

PLAIN FACT IS THAT MILITARY PERSONNEL HERE ARE NOT FULLY AND GAINFULLY OCCUPIED, AND NUMBER OF ATTACHES IN AMERICAN EMBASSY IS OUT OF PROPORTION IN COMPARISON TO MILITARY ATTACHES ASSIGNED TO ALL OTHER EMBASSIES (FOUR OUT OF ELEVEN). SPECIFICALLY I CONSIDER THAT REDUCTION IN DAO TO TWO OFFICERS, SUPPORTED BY NOT MORE THAN FIVE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AMERICAN ASSISTANTS AND PREFERABLY FEWER, AS PRESENT DATT, USN CAPTAIN VAN REETH, DISCUSSED WITH PENTAGON LAST MONTH, WOULD SUFFICE TO CARRY OUT DAO INTELLIGENCE AND REPRESENTATIONAL FUNCTIONS CONSISTENT WITH US NEEDS. ODC INVOLVES DIFFERENT CONSIDERATIONS. IN FIRST PLACE WE ANTICIPATE THAT IT WILL GO OUT OF BUSINESS WITHIN NOT MORE THAN TWO YEARS, WITH ANY REMAINING RESPONSIBILITIES MOVING TO PROPERLY AUGMENTED POLITICAL SECTION. AT TIME WE PREPARED PARM I CONCLUDED PRESENT SIZE WAS APPROPRIATE IN LIGHT OF NEED TO ENSURE SMOOTH OPERATION OF F-16 CONSORTIUM. NOW THAT FINAL F-16 AGREEMENTS HAVE BEEN SIGNED GIVEN LOCATION OF SPO IN NEARBY BRUSSELS WITH OVERALL AUTHORITY FOR F-16 PROGRAM I AM DISPOSED TO REVISE MY ORIGINAL JUDGEMENT. AS WE PHASE DOWN MILITARY ASSISTANCE FUNCTIONS HERE I WOULD RECOMMEND THAT WHEN ASSIGNMENTS OF PRESENT OFFICERS TERMINATE NO REPLACEMENT SHOULD BE NAMED SO THAT BY GRADUAL ATTRITION WITHIN THE YEAR ODC WOULD DROP TO SINGLE OFFICER, PREFERABLY ARM6. I BELIEVE SUCH AN OFFICER COULD COVER ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS SUCH AS DUTCH SUPPORT FOR REFORGER AND GENERAL LIAISON WHILE ROUTINE MILITARY MATTERS COULD BE HANDLED BY US MILITARY HEADQUARTERS IN GERMANY COMMUNICATING DIRECTLY

WITH DUTCH SERVICES. MILITARY SALES PROMOTION CAN EASILY REVERT TO COMMERCIAL CHANNELS. THE FACTS ARE THAT IN THIS NATO COUNTRY MILITARY COOPERATION WITH THE US IS TAKEN FOR GRANTED AND THAT ONGOING CONTACTS AT MILITARY LEVEL IN NATO, BUTTRESSED AS OCCASION REQUIRES BY SPECIAL VISITS, SHOULD SUFFICE TO ENSURE THAT OUR NATIONAL INTERESTS ARE SERVED.

6. I CONTINUE TO REGARD USIS COMPLEMENT OF FOUR, INCLUDING PUBLIC AFFAIRS TRAINEE, AND AMERICAN SECRETARY, AS AN EFFECTIVE GROUP WITH NO MORE THAN ENOUGH PERSONNEL TO KEEP ESSENTIAL PUBLIC RELATIONS AND INFORMATION ACTIVITIES GOING.

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7. I HAVE NOT DISCUSSED PERIPHERAL ELEMENTS DESCRIBED PARA 15 OF THE HAGUE 1682 FOR WHICH WE PROVIDE ONLY LIMITED ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT SINCE I ASSUME ON BASIS OF STATE 154335 THEIR PARENT AGENCIES (DOD, NASA, COAST GUARD) WILL BE REPORTING SEPARATELY.  
MCCLOSKEY

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## Message Attributes

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**Review Markings:**  
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